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ISSN 1753-1136



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KEY MOMENT: (l-r) Eamonn Rooney, Pamela Hogg and Charles Evans at the handing over of the Leas Lift

■ BY NICK AMES

FOLKESTONE'S Leas Lift, which links the town to the shore, is to reopen for business on Saturday.

The popular funicular railway – 125 years old in September – has been out of action since June 30 last year.

Shepway council, its previous owner, had withdrawn financial support, but Folkestone Estates stepped into the breach and brought the system back into working order.

On Monday its representatives handed the keys to the stations on top of the Leas and close to the newly-created Folkestone Leas Lift Community Interest Company, which will run it.

Heritage

Crowds cheered as the first cars slowly made their way up and down the cliffs.

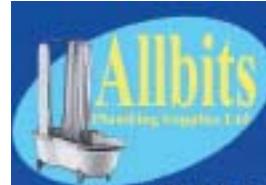
Eamonn Rooney is a founder-member of the group and also collects tickets on the lift.

"This is a fantastic day for Folkestone," he said. "Part of our heritage has been saved. When I left as a ticket collector 13 months ago I knew it wasn't the end of the story. Now this has proved to be the case."

The lift ran into problems due to lack of finances and in its last year of operation it took £35,000, charging visitors just under £1 a ride.

This was its lowest return for several years – but its new operator says that such a sum raised in the next 12 months will be enough to guarantee its continued running.

Pamela Hogg, who is part of the operating company, said: "We are now back in business and an important part of local history is again available for people to enjoy."



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your lifestyle

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EDITOR: Dave Mairs 01303 817022
GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: www.yourdover.co.uk
TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourdover@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

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'Short route' Marijke's treat as Eurotunnel hits milestone

■ BY NICK AMES

EUROTUNNEL is celebrating after reaching a new landmark – 250 million passengers have now passed through the Channel Tunnel.

Trains first took passengers from England to France on May 6, 1994, and since then a number equivalent to half the population of the entire European Union has boarded its services. According to the latest figures the tunnel remains most popular among the British – 80 per cent of users have been from the UK.

To commemorate the occasion the company invited one of its most loyal customers for a day out.

Marijke Korteweg was one of the first to use the service when it started running – travelling between her home in Belgium and her work in London every week.

Her pet dog was one of the first animals to take advantage of the pet passport scheme which replaced the quarantine system.

With her granddaughter Eva, Dr Korteweg was presented with flowers and champagne as well as shown what goes on behind the scenes at the Channel Tunnel site in Cheriton. She visited the control centre, the emergency room and the tower which oversees the entire site.

"I couldn't have had a job in England and a home in Belgium if it wasn't for Eurotunnel," she said.

"I have always really appreciated what the service offers and the dedication and professionalism of the staff. For myself – and I am sure millions of others – it has changed our lives. Getting between the UK and



SPECIAL GUEST: Commuter Marijke Korteweg with granddaughter Eva

the Continent is now so easy. For 12 years I worked in London and used the shuttle service to get home at weekends.

"Every Monday I got on at Coquelles at 4.25am and arrived in London in plenty of time for work. On Fridays I would leave my desk at 3pm and be home in time for dinner.

"Funnily enough, in Flemish my surname means 'the short route', so maybe I was destined to use the quickest cross-Channel service."

During her visit, Eva was allowed to sit at the desk usually occupied by railway controllers and press a button to lift a traffic barrier.

She also tried on a fireman's helmet while sitting in the front of one of the company's purpose-built fire engines – small enough to negotiate the emergency tunnels.

Ex-MP becomes Lord Howard of Lympne

MICHAEL Howard has been elevated to the House of Lords and given the title of Lord Howard of Lympne.

The former Conservative leader and one-time Home Secretary stood down as MP for Folkestone and Hythe in May, after 27 years.

He was named in former Prime Minister Gordon Brown's dissolution honours list before the election alongside other ex-Cabinet ministers and senior retiring MPs, including former Deputy PM John Prescott.

Guy Black, a former adviser to Lord Howard and director of the Telegraph media group, was also made a life peer.

Epileptic is rescued after hillside tumble

A MAN who suffered an epileptic fit and fell down a hillside was saved by paramedics in a dramatic rescue.

The 33-year-old was walking along Canterbury Road in Folkestone when the seizure struck and he fell down the steep hill, in the early hours of July 19.

He regained consciousness to find his fall had been broken by bushes. South East Coast ambulance service then received a 999 at 3.25am.

Ambulance, police and fire crews together with the coastguard took part in a 30-minute operation to find the man. He was treated for injuries to his leg and pelvis before being taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

A spokeswoman said: "He was in a considerable amount of pain and the emergency services did an excellent to bring about a successful rescue."

Post office gun-raid suspects remanded

TWO men have been charged in connection with an armed raid at St Mary's Bay post office, on Thursday, last week.

Billy Williams, 18, of St Martin's Road, New Romney, has been charged with robbery, along with possession of a shotgun while committing an offence and possessing a shotgun while prohibited to do so.

Sean William Edgar, 20, from Grassmere, St Mary's Bay, has also been charged with robbery.

Williams has also been charged in relation to a robbery at a bookmakers in New Romney last month.

Both men appeared at Ashford court on Monday and were remanded until Friday, August 13.

Family dismayed by killer's jail sentence

A GREATSTONE man has been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment after a fatal stabbing in the seaside village.

Paul Fender, 44, of The Parade, was convicted of manslaughter at Croydon Crown Court after being found guilty of stabbing 28-year-old Kerrin Martin, in Hardy Road, on November 20 last year.

He was sentenced to nine years after a request from the judge for reports as to whether he should be considered a dangerous offender.

The family of the victim are unhappy at the sentence, say police.

Ch Supt Chris Hogben said: "While any court result will not bring back the victim of this horrendous crime, the family are very disappointed with this verdict, having been robbed of a loving daughter and mother by the violent actions of Fender."

"This tragic case also highlights how important the work the police and our partners are doing in dealing with domestic violence."



PAUL FENDER: Handed nine-year jail term

Beat that, Branson!

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

SIR RICHARD Branson has been advised to enjoy the experience when he attempts to kite-surf across the Channel – by a young family who have just done so.

Ralph Crathorne and his daughters Lucy and Polly completed the feat last week, ahead of the billionaire Virgin boss's own planned crossing next month.

In doing so they believe they've sailed into the record books after completing the journey in three hours and 45 minutes, having set off from Dungeness Point.

The sport involves riding along the water on a customised surfboard while being pulled along by a kite.

Lucy, 21, who has competed in the sport at national level said: "It didn't really sink in that we were actually crossing the Channel until the half way point. I saw France in the distance and just thought, 'This is ridiculous'."

Her 16-year-old sister, Polly, said she found the whole experience exhilarating, and added: "When I realised we were going to make it, I turned to Lucy and we just laughed."

But instead of being inspired by Sir Richard's planned attempt, the Crathornes said they had been planning the crossing for some time and the opportunity only came about recently when a friend offered to provide a support boat.

Ralph, 51, said: "It was all a bit last minute.



BOARD MEETING: Lucy, Ralph and Polly Crathorne at Dungeness before their crossing

board walls."

Wife and mum Cally, who was in the support boat said: "It was a fantastic day but the winds were quite light and variable, so conditions were not ideal. We had to watch out for vessels in the shipping lanes and judge when to let them pass."

"The French coastguard don't like you landing on the beach and we noticed there were two policemen waiting for us. So once they landed by the harbour wall we quickly picked up the equipment and went home."

A family friend who joined them, Richard

HOMeward Bound: Lucy and Polly – with Boulogne in the distance – after the crossing

We aimed to go from Dungeness to Wimereux, but the currents and light winds forced us further south.

"We reckon we covered about 30 miles before our kites ditched into the water alongside the Boulogne harbour walls."

Jones, couldn't complete the crossing after his kite suffered a puncture. The Crathornes, from Wingham, near Canterbury, have been learning the sport between them for the last six years and usually sail from Greatstone, Sandwich Bay and Camber in East Sussex.

They think they have set a number of records, including for the first women to kite-surf the Channel, Polly as the youngest person to do so and Ralph as the oldest.

However, the latter could yet be beaten by Sir Richard – who turned 60 this month – when he and his children Holly and Sam and nephews set off from Dungeness sometime in August. The Crathornes might be on holiday kite-surfing elsewhere by then, but said they hope to pass on their best wishes to the Virgin boss, together with a few tips, through a mutual friend.

Polly, who is currently second in the ladies amateur freestyle section of the UK 2010 kite-surf tour, thanked her sponsor, Windsor.



HIGH THERE: Polly is fast approaching Boulogne

Welcome fall in recorded crime

CRIME is falling in our region, according to new Home Office figures, and is down by more than ten per cent compared with last year.

The latest statistics for South Kent – which covers Shepway, Dover and Ashford – show total recorded crime fell by 13.2 per cent from April, 2009, to March, 2010.

There were 2,797 fewer victims of crime, with the number of incidents dropping from 21,113 to 18,316 year-on-year.

Home burglaries are the lowest in Kent, at 5.7 per 1,000 households, from 893 to 789. Violent crime is down by 9.8 per cent, from 4,787 to 4,317; and robbery by 13.4 per cent, from 172 to 149.

Area commander Ch Supt Chris Hogben said: "This is a result of hard work by police officers, PCSOs and staff in South Kent."

"My officers have spoken to thousands of residents to find out about local concerns and tackle them direct. This led to South Kent achieving the highest increase in public confidence across Kent."

Neighbourhood task teams had helped reduce anti-social behaviour, especially in town centres on Friday and Saturday nights.

"We face challenging times ahead, but I'm confident my officers will continue to provide a first class policing service for South Kent," Ch Supt Hogben added.

Harbour dispersal zone

FOLKESTONE harbour has become a designated dispersal area for the second year to help police deal with anti-social behaviour.

From now until December 28, uniformed officers, including PCSOs, will be able to send away groups of people causing intimidation, alarm or distress. The aim is to help officers tackle the minority who cause trouble and spoil the enjoyment of everybody else.

The decision to apply for a dispersal area was made by police and the Community Safety Unit.

Any group of two or more people found causing intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress can be moved on by an officer. Those under 16, not accompanied by a responsible adult, can be taken back to their homes between the hours of 9pm and 6am.

Failure to comply can lead to arrest and a fine and/or three months imprisonment. Sgt Gerry Meers said:

"This is an added discretionary power to move troublemakers on, which is something we can't otherwise do unless they are committing specific offences. For example, jumping from the harbour wall isn't a criminal offence but a civil one. However, it is extremely dangerous and causes annoyance to fisherman and others.

"Folkestone Harbour is a pleasant and popular area and most people are well behaved and respectful.

"These powers will help us deal with the minority who persist in causing a nuisance. It is a repeat of a dispersal area we implemented last year."

The dispersal area is bounded by Lower Sandgate Road, Harbour Approach Road, Tontine Street, Harbour Way, Tram Road, The Stade, The Promenade to East Cliff Pavilion, Folkestone Harbour Pier, The Coast to Rotunda site junction with Marine Terrace.

Flat flooded during chip pan blaze

A CHIP pan fire which melted a washing machine and flooded a Folkestone flat forced two women to flee their home.

Fire crews were called to the second-floor flat in Brockman Road just before 9.30pm on Thursday, last week, after reports of a kitchen fire. Firefighters put out the blaze before ventilating the building.

Watch manager Mick Smith said:

"The women left a pan on the hob and it ignited. They tried to move the pan, splashing burning oil on the washing machine, melting it and flooding the kitchen, damaging the flat below."

In the last three years there have been 43 cooking fires in Shepway.

Mr Smith said: "Thankfully, the women managed to escape, although their home – and that of their neighbour – was badly damaged."

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Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.



Harbour scheme could fire town housing market

PROPERTY prices in Folkestone could soar thanks to the regeneration plans for the harbour and seafront, according to an online estate-agent network.

The housing market, together with the town's economy, will be boosted by the mixed-use development and draw buyers to the area, especially with the high-speed rail link in place, reports Email4Property.co.uk.

The Halifax House Price Index said that the average house price in Folkestone was currently £177,033, down on the 2008 average of £197,490.

Steve Lees, head of marketing at Email4Property.co.uk, said: "The regeneration of Folkestone's harbour and seafront will help reaffirm its regional and historical importance.

"If granted, the plans will result in visible improvements to the harbour and provide people with improved services and employment, in turn boosting the local economy.

Increase

"As a result, I would expect to see increasing numbers of buyers drawn to the area, aided in part by the new high-speed rail link which allows quick and easy access to the capital in less than an hour.

"There is also likely to be an increase in the number of second homes as holidaymakers continue to turn to traditional British seaside resorts as a foreign alternative. After a period of bust, Folkestone is certainly set for a property boom."

Mark Taylor, branch manager at Geering and Colyer estate agents in Cheriton Place, said: "I see Folkestone's property prices rising in the coming years, with the biggest increases likely to be down by the harbour and The Leas."



RIDERS, MAKE YOUR MARK...

Police on Romney Marsh are warning cyclists to be on their guard after eight reported bicycle thefts since the end of April.

The thefts happened in Lydd, Greatstone and Romney Sands Holiday Village between April 30 and June 10 and ranged in value between £70 and £2,800.

Lydd PCSO Mandy Kimpton said: "All but two of the thefts were to insecure cycles and clearly the work of opportunist offenders. One had been locked but not chained up. Only one of the bikes was security-marked."

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A number of shops have closed in the last few years, but with renewed levels of investment Folkestone will become more appealing as a weekend destination as well as for those looking to buy a second home.

Folkestone could easily follow in Brighton's footsteps, which also managed to reinvent itself, becoming a hub for tourists on the south coast."

Public consultation on the seafront proposals, based on designs drawn up by architect Sir Terry Farrell, finished last month.

Channel Chamber of Commerce chairman Ray Johnson said: "The harbour development would be a great asset, improving the housing facilities and seafront areas.

"In relation to the housing availability, this would provide an excellent facility for workers to be attracted to what we hope will be improved employment opportunities."

However, he did say there were issues over lending criteria and the implications of capital gains tax, which could affect the overall property market.

Peter Bettley, of the Folkestone Harbour Company, which is behind the seafront proposals, said: "There is evidence that the changes that have been taking place in the Old Town, combined with the new rail link, have already attracted new buyers to Folkestone, and this is helping to support the local economy in many different ways, apart from stimulating demand for housing."

He said he could not predict what the mix of buyers would be, but the plan was to develop a range of housing to appeal to a broad market.

Mr Bettley said: "Our ambition is to create a successful year-round and lively community on the seafront so we are not specifically targeting the second-home or holiday market."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cup-final tickets to ride

A HORSE-RIDING group for the disabled has been presented with tickets to two high-profile finals in recognition of its work.

Folkestone soft-drinks company Silver Spring handed over the prize to Cobbes Meadow Riding Group in Canterbury, which in turn put them up for auction at its annual meeting and raised funds for the Riding For The Disabled Association.

The presentation included eight tickets to see the Royal Windsor Cup final and a further eight to see the Archie David Cup final at Great Windsor Park. The group was also presented with branded hats.

Silver Spring managing director Neill Cotton said: "We are delighted that Cobbes Meadow was able to benefit from our association with the Guards Polo Club."

"All the volunteers work hard to make a useful contribution to the community and they are extremely deserving of these tickets."

Speak up about cycling

A SHEPWAY cycling plan has been drawn up by Kent County Council and put out for public consultation and feedback.

The intention is to help the environment as well as improve public health, as outlined in the objectives in the Kent Highways transport plan, which covers the five years to 2011.

The county council's Shepway and Dover transportation team has since been developing a cycling plan for the district and wants to hear your priorities for the future.

The consultation closes on Friday, October 8, and can be viewed at www.kent.gov.uk.

Theft: police comb area

WITNESSES are asked to come forward after the theft of four chickens and a chicken-coop from a garden in Cheriton high street.

The theft happened overnight between Sunday and Monday, June 6-7. The coop is 6ft long, 4ft high and 3ft wide and does not have a base. The top left-hand corner has a roosting house and is valued at £144.

The chickens are described as a light-brown hen, a light Sussex, a Bonvennera and a Maran Cuivree, valued at a total of £55.

Anyone with information about what happened is asked to call police on 01622 690690 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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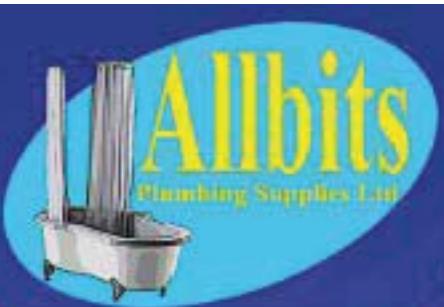
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WELL DONE: International water-skier Calum Heath, 14, with councillor Sue Nicholas

Ensuring excellence gets sporting chance

A CELEBRATION of clubs and talented individuals who have benefited from funding to support sport in the community has been held at Dover Sea Sports Centre.

The event was coordinated by the Active Dover partnership of local groups working to increase participation and excellence in sport.

The sports grant fund is administered by Dover District Council's sports development officer Sarah Philpott. It is open to all clubs and individuals in the district and is given primarily to people competing at a county or national standard, or to clubs looking to further development and to increase participation in sport.

Council vice-chairwoman Sue Nicholas said: "The aim was to recognise the commitment shown by the many sporting individuals and clubs in our community and to congratulate them for all their efforts to either represent or develop sport in the district."

Vet denies illegally docking tails of 13 rottweiler puppies

■ BY NICK AMES

A VET has appeared in court charged with the illegal docking of the tails of 13 rottweiler puppies, causing unnecessary suffering.

David Smith, of Lower Farm, Fingleham, had earlier denied the charges before the hearing at Ashford court which started on Thursday last week.

The prosecution was brought by the RSPCA and referred to an event that took place in March, 2008.

Smith, 60, who works at Lakeview Vets in Folkestone, is accused of the offences after a litter of 13 puppies was brought to him. They had been born to Millie, a rottweiler owned by Tony Heldt, of Folkestone, who works for a security company.

However, when the dogs were born, Millie had been living with a member of Mr Heldt's family in Hawkinge.

When the animals were taken to Smith, it is alleged he "snipped off" their tails. The RSPCA says such procedures should only be carried out on dogs that are being used in law

enforcement, by the military or for the retrieval of shot game.

Even in these cases the breeds that can undergo the procedure should be limited to spaniels, terriers or hunt-point retrievers.

The prosecution claims that although the rottweilers belonged to a man involved in security work, there was no evidence they would have been used by his company.

The animal welfare charity also says the breed is not one that should be docked in any case.

Rex Bryan, for the prosecution, said Smith cut off the dogs' tails one by one and some of the animals cried out, while one bled. He added that over the following week the tails became sore.

"The cut was through fat, muscular tissue, sinew, possibly tailbone and even blood vessels," said Mr Bryan.

"Our case is that this was unnecessary, caused pain and subsequent hyper-sensitivity to pain.

"We contend that they were not cer-

tified working dogs, used in law enforcement, the military, rescue work, the prison service or pest control or the lawful shooting of animals."

The dogs had been taken to the vets by Tracey Ralph, a friend of the family that owned them. She told the court she put them in two boxes in the back of her car to take them to the surgery.

Ms Ralph said: "He [David Smith] took one of the dogs out of the box and snipped its tail. No medicine was used and nothing was put on the tail.

"Some [of the puppies] were OK, a couple cried and one's tail bled. After he put them back in the box, I took them back to Millie, who was in my car. They were just days old and she was fretting."

Ms Ralph said she gave Smith a business card from Mr Heldt and he gave her a document to hand to the owner of the dogs.

"I bathed the tails of the dogs for a couple of weeks after," she said. "They had become sore and scabby. After two to three weeks they were all healed."

One by one the animals were sold to new owners, the court heard.

The case continues.



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CHRIS PRICE



Q & A

The campus director of University Centre Folkestone speaks to **James Alexandre** about what he sees for the future of the town, his musical background and the increasing challenges for today's students

Q How long have you been at University Centre Folkestone?

A I started working for Canterbury Christ Church University in 2006, running the performing-arts degree course when we started it up in Broadstairs. But it was always destined for UCF, so when the centre was finally ready in September 2007 we moved in with two cohorts of students – those who'd begun the previous year as well as the new lot who started their undergraduate lives in Folkestone. A year later, in August 2008, I took over as campus director.

Q What attracted you to the job?

A The chance to shape a university centre so that it does something for the local community and for the wider region. For an educator, that's an incredibly exciting opportunity, especially in a university centre that defines itself by its outward-facing attitude.

We aren't cloistered in an ivory tower and all our courses have a healthy grounding in the realistic world of work. We want people of all ages who want to explore the arts to unlock their own creativity and to pass something on to others in their community. I think we'll be judged by our contribution to the town in the arts and the creative industries, and that's the challenge, for me.

Q What do you enjoy most about your job?

A Seeing new things happen that may just offer someone a chance to try to discover more about themselves than they thought possible. We're making some things happen here in the Shepway area that haven't happened before. Students doing street theatre, the arts festival we've just put on, workshops around the community, hosting visits by people who are curious to see what we could do for them...

Q Why do you think that a university centre is so important for Shepway?

A Partly, it's symbolic. I'm looking forward to the day when the road-signs say 'Folkestone – a South Coast University Town' or something like that, something that signifies that this place has ambition and aspirations.

But more importantly, it's practical, and here's where it gets personal: I'm the eldest of five; my mum was a part-time librarian and my dad was an engineer who was unemployed for a lot of my adolescence. But they could afford to see me off to university because I got a full grant, all fees paid.

That was Britain in the 70s. Now, young people from families like mine will struggle financially and students like me finish their

courses in a lot of debt. If having a local university centre makes it a little easier, financially, for kids like me to get a university education, that makes it worthwhile.

Q What did you do before UCF?

A I've been a teacher all my life. Music mostly. I ran the music department at Highworth School, in Ashford, for almost 20 years. So yes, this place has been something of a life-changer for me, too.

Q What do you do in your spare time outside work?

A Mostly music, again! I'm a singer. I've been in the cathedral choir at Canterbury on and off ever since I came to Kent in 1976. I run a small choir, and my partner and I run the UCF Kids Choir on a Saturday morning for kids aged six to 12 from 10.30am–11.15am if anyone's interested. Otherwise I cycle a lot, read endlessly and go off on motorcycle trips from time to time.

Q How can people find out more about what UCF has to offer?

A Go to our website at www.ucf.ac.uk, call us on 01303 220870, or see our new brochure for 2011. There are some great new courses for people to look at.

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Special award for constable

A VOLUNTEER police officer who gives up his own time to serve in the Dover district has been praised by the area's police chief.

Matthew Prigmore, 24, has been awarded the Special Constable Of The Year accolade in recognition of his outstanding contribution.



HONOUR: Supt Martin Bradley presents Sp Con Matthew Prigmore, right, with his award

leagues in the Special Constabulary to work in the Dover district.

He was presented his award during a ceremony at Folkestone police station to acknow-

■ BY NICK AMES

ledge the efforts of the Special Constabulary.

Several officers from the Special Constabulary were also presented with Long Service Medals, including Special Inspector Jason Turner, who has served in the Dover district for more than nine years.

Acting Superintendent Martin Bradley said: "The Special Constabulary is an important part of the policing family and plays a crucial role in keeping the area safe and crime down."

"Special Constable Prigmore has proven to be a valuable asset to the Dover District Specials Team and is recognised as a valuable member of the South Kent Special Constabulary."

South Kent currently has 38 volunteers in its Special Constabulary. Men and women aged 18-50 who are in good health, can volunteer about 16 hours a month and are able to attend regular training are eligible to become Special Constables.

Formal qualifications are not needed to join up, but good communication skills are important, such as writing up concise reports and being able to express yourself clearly in English.

For further information about joining the Special Constabulary, phone PC Jim Empett on 01233 896187 or visit www.kent.police.uk.



KARATE ACE WINS AWARD FOR HER STIRLING EFFORTS

Dover student and martial-arts expert Holly Stirling has been recognised for her excellent performances.

She has been named the Puma sports person of the year for the second year running at the University Sport Sunderland sports awards.

Holly, who is part of the university's elite-athlete programme, picked up the award in recognition of her achievements at the British Universities And Colleges Sport Championship earlier in the year, when she won both a gold and a silver medal in karate.

She is pictured here with Shirley Atkinson, deputy vice-chancellor at the University of Sunderland, who presented the trophy as 150 of Holly's fellow sporting students looked on and applauded.

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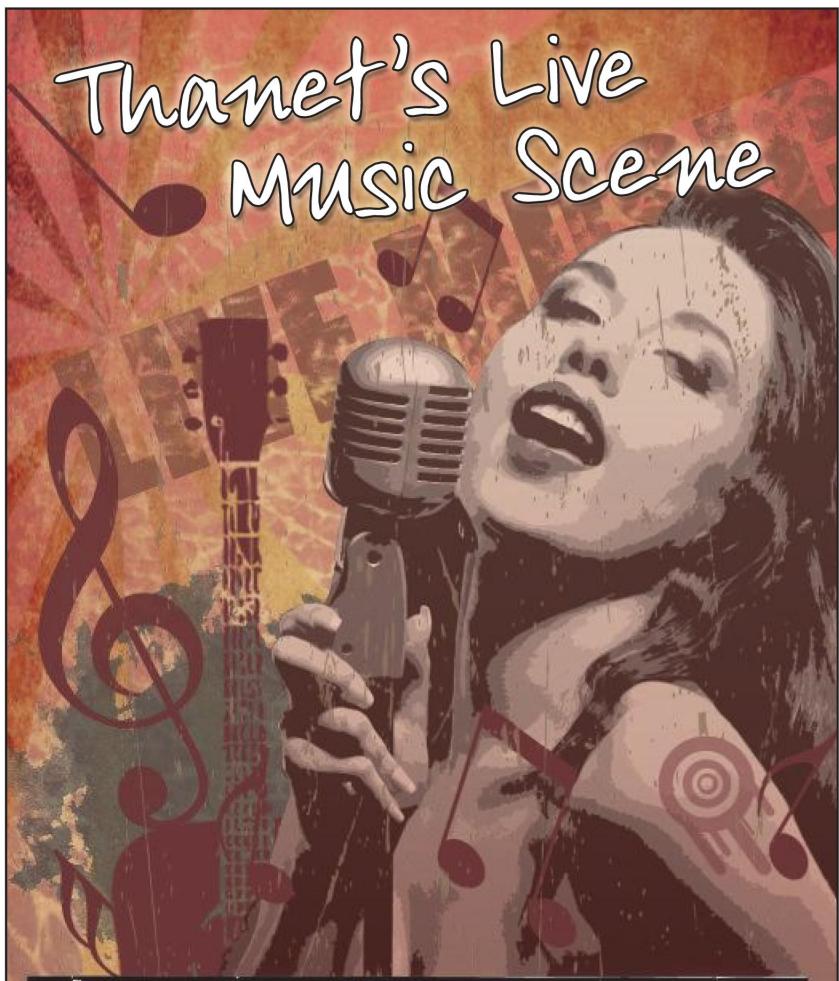
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Where & When

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Saturday 31st July

Where's My Thing

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Saturday 31st July

Purity

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 6th August

Shazam

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Saturday 7th August

EK1

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Saturday 7th August

Captain Mildred

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Friday 13th August

Bad Pennier

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Saturday 14th August

Suspect

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Saturday 14th August

Eyelash Guilt

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 20th August

Damage Case

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 21st August

Situation Vacant

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Saturday 21st August

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Dust off those leotards!

Martha is hosting an **80s Exercise Extravaganza** on Saturday 24 July.

Leading local fitness instructor **Abi Reynaert** will be demonstrating body combat, body conditioning, bootcamp, pilates, yoga and a **1,000 calorie workout**. Abi will run high and low impact versions of each session to suit all levels of fitness.

Dressing up is optional while taking part costs **£5 per person**.

All proceeds go to Martha. Spectators are welcome and refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

The **80s Exercise Extravaganza** takes place from **9am to 12pm** at Warden House Primary School, Deal.

To register your interest or to find out more call Carol Baalham on
01304 610447 or email CarolBaalham@marthatrust.org.uk



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BREAK TIME

Experts in tune on De Haan research

EXPERTS gathered in Switzerland this month to consider the findings of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre about the health benefits of singing.

The Folkestone-based centre's study into the benefits of singing to mental health was on the agenda at the 20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion in Geneva, from July 11-15.

The study involved a network of singing groups for people with severe and enduring mental-health problems.

Seven choirs in east Kent were set up in 2009 and 150 participants assessed over a ten-month period.

The centre's director at Canterbury Christ Church University, Professor Stephen Clift, said: "We found striking improvements in mental-health well-being from involvement in choirs."

"Singing together helps people feel happier, connected and more supported. It builds confidence, gives a sense of achievement and also reduces distressing symptoms and problems."

The study, funded by the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT, drew to a close last month. Assistant director of public health Dr John Rodriguez said: "Based on the evidence on what is already known of the benefits of singing groups for older people, the PCT fully supported this project. The evaluation of this study clearly demonstrates the benefits."

For more information on the IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, visit www.iuhpeconference.net. For more on the Sidney De Haan centre, at the University Centre, Folkestone, go to www.canterbury.ac.uk/centres/sidney-de-haan-research/.



FLY THE FLAG: Excited Shepway youngsters welcomed pupils from Hythe's twin town of Poperinge for the Rural Olympics Challenge



IN STEP: Palmarsh pupils in the action

Rings of confidence as teams rise to the Olympic challenge

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

YEAR five pupils from Saltwood, St Augustine's, Palmarsh and Hythe Bay primary schools were quick out of the blocks at the Shepway Rural Olympics Challenge at Brockhill.

They were joined by 39 children from schools in the Belgian town of Poperinge, which is twinned with Hythe, to perform in front of guests including Hythe mayor Keren Belcourt and members of the Poperinge Twinning Association. The Shepway Rural Olympics involved teams of youngsters undertaking



TEAMWORK: Saltwood youngsters ready for action

challenges in golf, volleyball, athletics and curling. Teams were awarded Olympic rings

for successfully completing challenges, good teamwork and sporting behaviour.

The eventual winners were a joint Poperinge-Hythe Bay team, who were presented with an Olympic rings cup, designed and built by the design and technology department at Brockhill Park.

All pupils were awarded medals and helped in their challenges by Brockhill students, who acted as sports leaders working with Shepway secondary school sports co-ordinator Laura McGee.

After a picnic lunch, the Belgian party visited Brockhill country park, where children took part in a nature detectives hunt and orienteering. Poperinge Twinning Association hopes to develop the links made with Hythe following the games.

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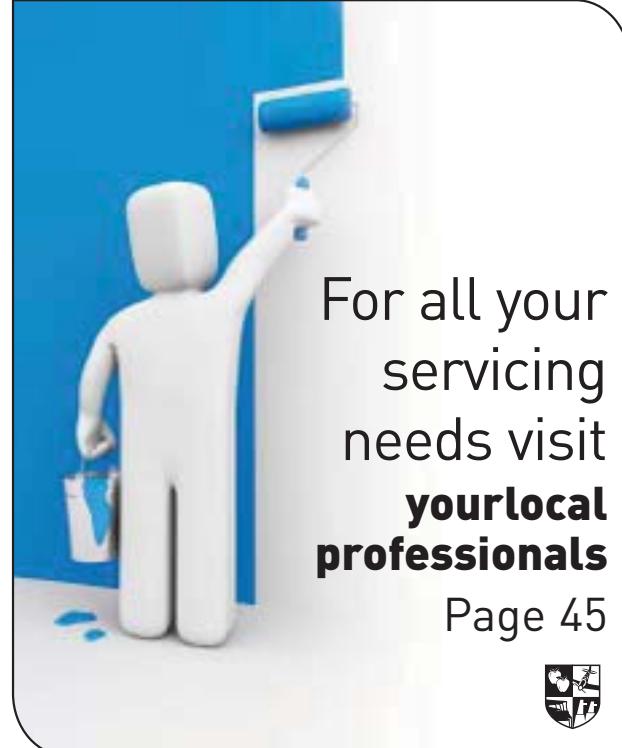
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Page 45



Unseen police force who are always at your beck and call

WHEN staff at the Kent Police Force Contact and Control Centre pick up the phone they have no idea who's on the other end.

The caller could be phoning to report a major incident, a crime in progress or perhaps a motorway crash.

But whatever it is about, the listening skills and calm approach of the call-handlers ensure the person is given the help they need – and in some cases the advice given over the phone could help save someone's life.

For staff at the centre, their work is unpredictable and sometimes challenging – but it is always very worthwhile.

Kent Police receives an average of 700-800 emergency calls a day – which are all dealt with at its Force Contact and Control Centre.

Alongside emergencies, the centre takes a further 1,000-1,200 non-emergency calls a day, ranging from people seeking advice on legislation to those phoning in with information to assist the police.

■ BY NICK AMES

The Force Contact and Control Centre is based in Maidstone and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The centre is divided into sections to reflect Kent's six policing areas: South Kent, East Kent, Mid Kent, West Kent, North Kent and Medway.

Chief Inspector of Operations at the centre, Nicola Faulconbridge, said: "We're always busy, but the peak times are 8am to 10am and from 4pm to midnight and we always receive more calls during school holidays. We don't get a lot of nuisance or hoax 999 calls, but when we do these callers could be putting other people's lives at risk."

Ch Insp Faulconbridge said: "All calls are valuable, as the callers are possibly witnesses to what happened."

All emergency calls – when there is a crime in progress or a life at risk – to Kent Police should be made by dialling 999. All other calls should be made to 01622 690690.



ON CALL FOR THE COUNTY: Maidstone's Force Contact and Control Centre is open seven days a week, 365 days a year



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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS

Everything must be done to save home

Some days ago I had the privilege of visiting the annual garden party at Sampson Court in Mongeham and of talking with residents and families about the proposed closure of the home.

All those I talked to were not just full of praise for the care and support at Sampson Court, but concerned about the potential loss of the day centre which performs such a valued role for people still in the community.

How can such a facility be replaced? And where will the respite beds come from to replace those lost at Sampson Court?

I met a 92-year-old who, alongside other residents, will need to find a new home if these proposals go through.

I hope we can do everything possible to convince Kent County Council to keep this valuable facility open at a time when there are more frail elderly people than ever before.

Ben Bano, Mayor of Deal

Just to clarify Euro by-election process

In response to Frederic Stansfield's letter last week, I sympathise with his concern. The European by-election process is under Government control and not the Green Party's so, when voting in a European election, the public are voting for the party, not the candidate.

The candidates on the list are in order of preference as decided within the party, and this is true for all the parties represented.

Had the same situation arisen for another party, it would have had no choice but to take the same action the Green Party did.

The option of a by-election does not exist for practical reasons of the costs of staging a ballot over the whole South East region, with counting in every district etc.

Furthermore, a European election based on a preferential choice of candidates, where every party puts forward ten candidates, would involve a lot of homework for the electorate having to wade through the viability of 60 or more candidates.

I would like to thank Mr Stansfield for his support and take this opportunity to assure him, and all Green supporters, that Keith will work hard to maintain the high standards set by Caroline Lucas and Jean Lambert in the European Parliament.

Keith has already taken on many roles and visited our Kent Green Party meeting in Wye in June, as well as a recent visit to Medway. We can keep an eye on him via his website www.keithtaylormp.org.uk.

If anyone would like more control over the candidacy and running order for European elections they are more than welcome to join the Green Party – www.greenparty.org.uk/join – and take an active role.

Steven Campkin, Kent Green Party



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS



EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

yourblogger

There's something rotten in the state of Shepway, says David Plumstead



THE rowdy and chaotic meeting of Hythe Town Council (HTC) on Thursday, June 10, to discuss the Fisherman's Beach development was an example of the level to which the relationship between electors and our town and district councils has sunk.

While the meeting chaired by councillor John Schoner on Thursday, July 1, was infinitely more democratic, the basic sickness so evident in our area has not gone away.

The flow of objections and public anger directed at that and other development proposals supported by Shepway council and HTC should have woken them to that fact, causing the management to do something about it.

But apparently not.

Face-to-face dealings with Shepway council give the impression that its people are a fair, courteous and polite bunch, officers going to some lengths to accommodate our requests for information and access to files.

But that picture is illusory. They do not live in our world and are not at the receiving end of the actions 'they' take. Officers and members remain expressionless as they tell us that the black we know is in fact white is good for us and is what the majority want.

The 'majority' 'they' claim to 'consult' on planning proposals is never independently scrutinised, being made up of numbers that are never proven from places too far away to be relevant.

We remember the 'evidence' from New Romney of the 'need' for a Sainsbury's supermarket in Hythe. Shepway council's attempt to justify that was laughable and pathetic. An insult to our intelligence.

Conditions sold to us as limiting the destruction of the Hythe Imperial have been whittled away to vanishing point, while it would be nice to know the whereabouts of the reported £2.2 million promised for affordable homes.

What have we in fact been given? No affordable homes, no work refurbishing the hotel as 'guaranteed'. Nothing, just a bombed-out, once-lovely garden. Now just a property for buying and selling to no apparent benefit of the community of our once-proud Cinque Port of Hythe.

Who do these people think they are?

Deals with Shepway council make me think of what it must have been like for Alice at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party when confronted by the Red Queen. Totally incomprehensible.

Planning as conducted by Shepway council trades the quality of life of the residents of one community against that of other communities. Housing and roads here, but not there.

As each community forgoes its own interests for the sake of another, when all communities have given up their interests in this bizarre merry-go-round, the quality of life for all will have moved down another notch until the next developers' jamboree.

It is the philosophy of the lowest common denominator

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on **01303 817022**, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

MP must not vote to repeal cruel Hunt Act

This letter is to alert readers to the campaign being organised to repeal the Hunting Act and to make this form of cruelty legal again.

A local, recently elected, MP is known to be determined to vote in favour of this outdated, privileged form of animal abuse despite the overwhelming opposition of the public and, by definition, his constituents.

We urge readers to take this MP to task and ensure that we continue to live in a more humane society.

Michael Nightingale and Brian Lamb, Folkestone

Alternative system doesn't get my vote

So far as I am concerned, Damian Collins won the right to be MP for Folkestone and Hythe fair and square in May's general election, even though he just failed by less than one per cent to obtain 50 per cent of the vote in the constituency.

For that reason alone, among many I shall be opposing the Alternative Voting system (AV) when it is put forward by the coalition in a referendum next year.

The thought that Damian should have to rely on votes from, say, UKIP or BNP supporters to get him past the winning post is anathema

to me and should be to the whole political process. Nodding donkeys should not be allowed to nominate the winning nag after the race is over and the favourite is well past the finishing post.

But such is coalition government these days that even Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg described AV as a disgraceful little compromise the other side of the general election.

More importantly perhaps to Damian, and to voters in Folkestone and Hythe, I hope they will all be opposing a reduction in the number of MPs from 650 to 600.

We already have a ludicrous situation here in Folkestone and Hythe that means our Member of Parliament not only represents the

whole of the Shepway District Council area but also part of Ashford DC area in Saxon Shore ward.

If the numbers of MPs are now to be reduced and the boundaries redrawn, how soon before we are taken over by Damian Green MP for Ashford, or parts of Canterbury are merged with our constituency?

Residents of Brabourne Lees already have little in common with residents of Lydd in terms of transport and refuge collection.

Larger constituencies across two or even three local authorities will just exaggerate and worsen those differences and certainly not bring an MP closer to their constituents.

If the coalition is truly looking for cuts in the costs of governing and not just playing politics for the sake of preserving the coalition's fig leaves, then firstly it should cut the number of peers in the House of Lords and not be adding to them with the likes of 'Two Jags' Prescott or Lord of the Night Howard.

Secondly, this government should tackle the absolute waste of money imposed upon us all by expensive town councils and the excessive number of councillors on Shepway council.

When school-building projects from Pent Valley to Brockhill are being savaged, public-sector workers being put out of work in their thousands and living standards slashed, then locally we can no longer afford the luxury of town councils and their overpaid clerks for Folkestone, Hythe and Lydd.

After that, the number of councillors on Shepway DC must also be cut and, given the Treasury's recent round robin, a 40 per cent cut in numbers from 46 to 28 or fewer would be a good starting point, although doing away with it altogether or merging with Dover would be just as welcome.

Once political parties promise voters referenda, then indeed they must honour that promise.

That they may waste millions of pounds in a futile attempt to save their own political throats from being cut is one very good reason, however, that when referenda fail to go their way we should not give them the get-out of a five-year fixed Parliament to put off their day of judgement.

Donald Worsley, Shepway and Hythe Labour Party

Amalgamation only way for councils to go

Twenty-five per cent cuts? Forty per cent cuts? When the effects of these hit home, they will not be 'fair'.

Combine the cuts with council tax being frozen, how can our four district councils survive and provide the public service required on their own?

They must amalgamate into an east Kent council to benefit from the economies of scale.

When the cuts hit home, an east Kent council will be very appealing.

Unfortunately, we the public only start to react or complain when the manure has hit the fan.

Hopefully, this time it's sooner rather than later.

Reg Hansell, Shepherdswell

Kiwi-growers wait for fruits of labours

EXPERIMENTS are taking place in a secret location in the county to see if kiwi fruit can be grown in Kent.

A company with a base in Canterbury is working to harness recent climate change to grow the popular fruit and tap into the annual market, which is worth £20 million in the UK.

Now technicians at Worldwide Fruits have started tests at an east Kent location to see if the fruit can be produced in sufficient quantities here to make it commercially viable within two years.

They are using a hectare's worth of vines brought in from Italy and Greece in May and which are flourishing thanks to the expertise of New Zealand kiwi fruit-growers.

Worldwide Fruit technical director Tony Harding said: "The result has been 1,200 vines now safely in the ground."

"The varieties planted to date have been green Hayward types. There are plans to plant in 2011 yellow-flesh kiwis and introduce some of the latest discoveries, which are red-fleshed."

Fruit development technologist Caroline Ashdown said: "It's a new experience for us, but we're confident it will be successful in some degree as we understand the vines' physiology."

Kiwi vines grow so fast that they are being trailed on wires strung across concrete supports.

Harvesting is expected to take place in October.



EXPERT: Technologist Caroline Ashdown

Figures show horror of youngsters' rail crimes

■ BY MARIJKE COX

TRAIN-surfing, jumping on tracks and playing 'chicken' with 100-tonne trains are just some of the shocking games played by young people on railways every week in Kent.

And if they're not playing on the railway line, they're throwing things on it, with objects as strange as a kitchen sink being found on tracks.

The Network Rail findings showed 240 rail crimes were carried out in the past year, but the true figure is believed to be much higher.

Dave Ward, the company's route director in Kent, said the figures were down from last year but too many were still risking their lives.

"Trains can't swerve and can take the length of 20 football pitches to stop," he said. "Contact with electricity power lines and tracks can result in horrific injuries, burns or even death."

Crimes can involve distracting train-drivers, with laser-pens being shone in their eyes and bricks and fireworks being hurled at trains.

Young people have also been caught 'train-surfing', where they grip on to the outside of a moving train, or playing 'chicken', where they jump out of the way just before it hits them.

Bikes, gas cylinders, scaffolding, a pram and



DANGEROUS: A youth is caught on a wire above a live track; the potentially lethal damage caused by throwing stones

traffic lights have all been thrown on to tracks in Kent, causing costly damage and delays.

As the summer holidays begin, Network Rail is asking young people not to put themselves at risk by playing near the tracks.

The company's No Messin' campaign, fronted by boxer Amir Khan, works with community groups to warn youngsters about the dangers.

Khan is encouraging young people to take up positive activities. "They need to know that playing chicken or throwing stones at trains won't get you respect or win you friends," he said.

The shocking figures showed 63 incidents of objects being thrown at trains, 92 reports of trespass and 15 incidents of graffiti.

Insp Ed Walton from the British Transport Police said: "Every year we see people risking their lives either by careless action, such as taking a short-cut across tracks or by playing on or near the line," he said.

"Anyone who messes around near the tracks is not only risking a court appearance, they are putting their lives at risk."

Ben Lavender, 17, was killed in April 2009 at Westgate-on-Sea station when he fell on a live line as he crossed the tracks.

Jade Kenyon, 17, from Snodland, died in 2006 after touching a live rail as she walked along the tracks after missing a train at Cuxton station near Rochester.



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Kent & Medway



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Records Centre

BATS AND MOTHS have evolved in very close relationship, although it could be said to be rather one sided as predator and prey! If you'd like to learn more about the amazing diversity, ecology and behaviour of some of the bat and moth species we might expect to find in Kent then why not come and join us at Brogdale Farm on 31st July 2010 for a fascinating evening hosted by Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre and the Brogdale Courtyard Restaurant!

BAT AND MOTH EXPERTS from around the County will be joining us to provide **FUN AND INFORMATIVE BAT WALKS**, as well as enabling everyone to get a close up look at some of our **AMAZING MOTH SPECIES**.

There will be **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** in the Courtyard and the restaurant will be offering, for one night only, a delicious choice of high quality, locally sourced **BBQ FOOD FROM 5PM** onwards as well as light refreshments and its fabulous **HOME MADE CAKES**.

Brogdale Collections will also be co-ordinating self guided walks giving visitors the opportunity to take a leisurely stroll around the beautiful grounds and spend time enjoying the orchards. Charges for the orchard walks are £5.00 adults, £4.50 concessions, £2.50 children and families £12.50. Entry to all other activities is free of charge.



For more information please contact Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre on 01795 532385.

Entry to the event and activities will be **FREE** but numbers will be limited for the bat walk and will need to be booked in advance. Please book early to avoid disappointment either by ringing the number above or emailing us at info@kmbrc.org.uk



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Get out of the city for relaxing meal

Martins

IF you're bored of gimmicky city centre restaurants, and want a taste of excellent cuisine in the heart of the countryside, then book a table at Martins.

Due to popularity, a two for one offer is continuing during summer – so it's the ideal place to catch up with friends and family.

What Martins has done for 21 years now, is combine every element on the diner's checklist, and package it in an approachable, affordable and enjoyable evening out.

The restaurant, one of the longest-running

in Kent, has a modern interior with that classic countryside feel we love about Boughton.

Gone are the hops, in are classic Parisian black and white portraits, and images that reflect the sophisticated yet friendly atmosphere the team strives to create each and every evening.

Also in is a fresh new menu, including – for July – summer melon, a dish of chilled melon, tomato and fresh mint with a vinaigrette dressing, and chicken Veronique, served in white wine and grape sauce.

All meals are freshly prepared on the night too, using the finest ingredients, locally sourced where possible. So whether it's a romantic meal for two, a birthday party, wedding reception, or any other excuse, Martin's

guarantees the elegance of London, in the heart of the garden of England.

If you are a bit indecisive when your menu arrives, then our Friday night carvery is ideal.

A spectacular array of fresh seafood, salads, roast meats and vegetables means that you can create your own starter and main course for just £14.50. Simple, yet hugely satisfying.

For a look at our monthly set menu or a la carte menu, see our website, www.martinrestaurant.co.uk.

The restaurant is open from Tuesday to Saturday evenings from 7pm, last orders 10pm, and Sunday lunches from noon, last orders 2pm.

Martins, 40 The Street, Boughton-under-Blean, near Canterbury. Telephone: 01227 750304.

THE ANCHOR INN

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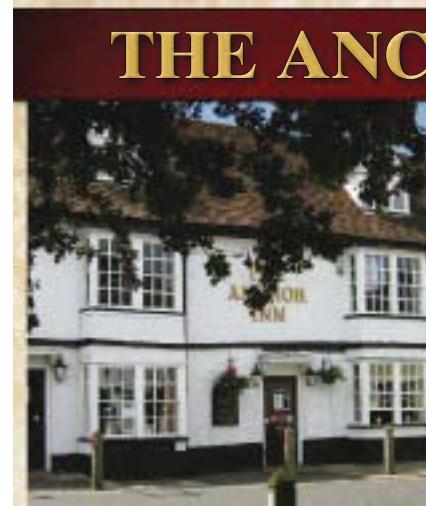
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out guide

and benefit from downloadable offer vouchers and display your menu online!



A warm welcome waits on Common

Rose and Crown

THE Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis, is a country pub with a friendly atmosphere.

In the heart of the countryside it is especially attractive in summer.

The pub now has free Wi Fi which makes it ideal for business lunches, but it is also a great place to meet friends on a summer evening.

Currently popular on the menu are salmon and sweet potato fishcakes with a sweet chilli dip as well as ploughmans or a warm chicken and bacon salad.

Tofee and hazelnut pavlova is a popular

dessert choice with diners at the moment. A fine selection of beers, including Batemans XB, Moorhouses Blonde Witch and Flowers IPA, complements the food.

The pub has a very attractive location on the edge of Stelling Minnis Common, which is one of the few remaining unclosed commons in the South East so popular with walkers.

The Rose and Crown is as fine an example of an English country inn as it is possible to find, and all produce is locally sourced.

Food is available seven days a week for lunch and from 7pm to 9pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday evenings.

Thursdays dinner hours are 6pm to 9pm
Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis. Telephone 01227 709265



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DAY & NIGHT**Prom at the Pavilion**

FORMER D'Oyly Carte soprano Hannah Kirk joins the Thanet Male Voice Choir for their Prom by the Sea.

The concert at Broadstairs Pavilion starts at 7.30pm tonight and will finish in time for guests to watch the firework display over Viking Bay.

Admission is free, but audience members should arrive early to secure a seat.

A bite of the Big Apple

AN ASPIRING writer heads to 1920s New York in the one-man show, Small Town to Big Apple.

Greg Chapman plays a young man looking for a story in the show at the Tom Thumb Theatre in Cliftonville at 7.30pm on Friday and Saturday.

Tickets cost £8/£6. To book call 01843 221791.

Ancient healing sounds

ANCESTRAL music from African villages will be performed at Quarterhouse in Folkestone tonight.

Kasai Masai play traditional sounds rooted in the healing power of percussion and singing. The concert starts at 7.30pm and ticket cost £10/£8 or £26 for families of four. To book call 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Spend night with Queen

HEAR the hits of Queen played live with uncanny accuracy at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall this week.

Find out if Gary Mullen really is the next best thing to Freddie Mercury by seeing One Night of Queen at 7.30pm on Friday.

Tickets cost £19.50. Call 0844 8471776 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

Triple bill of comedy

A TRIO of comedians will be going for giggles at the Ramada Dover when The Comedy Club visits on Thursday.

Kevin McCarthy will be acting as MC, joined by Zoe Lyons and Stephen Grant. The over-18s show starts at 9pm. Tickets cost £12 for the comedy only or £20 including a three-course meal. To book call 01304 872843.

Kids go free on trains

CHILDREN can travel on the Kent and East Sussex Railway for free during the summer holidays.

Until August 22, up to three children can travel free with the purchase of one adult rover ticket, at £12.80. To claim your free tickets, download the voucher from www.ksr.org.uk and take it to the booking office at the time of purchase.

Take tea with mayor

ENJOY afternoon cream tea with the Major and Mayoress of Margate at the Walpole Bay Hotel next Wednesday.

Cllrs Michael and Shirley Tomlinson will host the event at 2.30pm to raise money for the Mayor of Margate's Charity Fund. Tickets cost £12 and include a talk on the history of the hotel. To book call 01843 221704.

Joe king of the art of silliness

JOE PASQUALE

Friday, August 6, Winter Gardens, Margate



THE King of the Jungle is ready to drive you wild with his latest show full of comedy and calamities.

Joe Pasquale continues his personal quest to make holidaymakers laugh by taking his new show to seaside towns around the country. Just Joe is his latest collection of comic capers, slightly duff magic and Pasquale's trademark silliness, designed to get audiences giggling, whatever the British summer weather.

Last year's fast-paced show featured a motorised toilet, so fans can look forward to another evening of wacky props and goofy gags. Pasquale's latest gadgets can be as unpredictable as his humour and could be one reason why the comedian has won an increasing student following.

Born in Essex, Pasquale harboured early desires to become an actor, but he could not afford to go to drama school. So he tried to get into show business another way, by becoming a bingo caller and a holiday camp entertainer. He rose up the ranks to become entertainment manager at two resorts and eventually discovered his gift for comedy.

By the time Pasquale appeared on the TV talent show New Faces in 1987, he had also worked in the civil service, a Ford factory and Smithfields meat market. Achieving second place on the show meant that work as a comedian started to come in, liberating Pasquale from some of his less enjoyable jobs.

When Pasquale really hit the big time, his first video sold in huge numbers and he became a popular television personality. His distinctive high-pitched voice has only added to his endearing persona and along with his comedy work, he also became a successful game show host.

Although he was already a popular and well-known comic, Pasquale's career received a further boost when he appeared on the ITV reality show I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! in 2004.

The bookies' favourite from the start, Pasquale did not disappoint viewers with his charming nature and good sense of humour, which even held during the most tortuous Bush Tucker tasks. While other celebrities complained about the primitive jungle conditions, Pasquale's quips consistently won the viewers' votes.

In the final stages, he saw off competition from former royal butler Paul Burrell to be crowned King of the Jungle.

His experiences in the jungle had more far-reaching consequences than anyone might have expected. One of the Bush Tucker Trials involved dangling from a helicopter in mid-air, while trying to obtain stars to win meals for his fellow contestants. This hair-raising ordeal actually helped Pasquale overcome his fear of flying and he went on to gain his pilot's licence



after taking lessons at Rochester Airport.

Despite his enormous success as a comedian, Pasquale has still managed to follow his dream of becoming an actor. His stage projects have included numerous pantomimes and he appeared in the West End production of The Producers.

His unforgettable voice has also been heard in animations such as Hollywood movie

Horton Hears A Who! with Jim Carrey and CBBC's Frankenstein's Cat. Pasquale has also appeared as the Scarecrow in a touring production of The Wizard of Oz.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £16.50, concessions available for Friends of the Winter Gardens. To book call the box office on 01843 292795/296111 or go online at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



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Adult Admission Sunday: £10, Children (under 12): Free



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ARCHERY SCHOOL AND KNIGHT SCHOOL

Various dates, Canterbury Tales, Canterbury

LEARN the ways of the past as historical experts take up residence at Canterbury Tales.

On Wednesdays throughout August, visitors can learn about life in medieval England and try their hand at the ancient skills of archery and sword fighting.

On August 4 and 18, join the Archery School and see if your aim is strong and true. In early medieval times, it was decreed that every man and boy in England should practise with the long bow during his free time. Visitors aged from seven upwards can join the trained instructors to try out this time-

honoured pursuit and see whether they could have passed as an Agincourt archer or Norman invader.

Learn to wield a sword by joining the Knight School on August 11 and 25. The knight and his unarmed squire will demonstrate the combat techniques of the day and expose a few myths about medieval armour.

The special events are included in the admission price of £7.75 for adults, £5.75 for children and £6.75 for concessions.

For more information call 01227 784600 or see the website at www.canterburytales.org.uk.



MARGATE CARNIVAL SOUL WEEKEND

Saturday, July 31, and Sunday, August 1, The Piazza, Margate

CHILL out and relax as Margate Carnival Soul Weekend returns with some truly great performers.

The carnival will also feature an array of colourful family rides, along with a tasty Caribbean barbecue.

Sunday's music programme will be headlined by West Coast Soul Stars, who perform ahead of the release of their new single, Show Me Love, featuring Eli and Janine. In September, they will be supporting 80s funk band Chic at the Indigo2, so soul fans should not miss the chance to see these rising stars in action.

The award-winning R&B artist Junior Giscombe will also be performing, along with former Hi Tension member, David Joseph. Giscombe was a pop force during the 80s when he had hits with Mama Used To Say and Too Late. He duetted with Kim Wilde on Another Step (Closer To You) and went on to write songs for artists like Sheena Easton.

The free entertainment starts at 3pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. The carnival procession starts from Westgate at 3pm on Sunday. For more details visit www.westcoastlive.co.uk.

WIDOWER'S HOUSES

Thursday, July 29, Saturday, July 31, and Sunday, August 1
 Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

MONEY and principles do not always mix in George Bernard Shaw's sharp satire, Widowers' Houses.

The first play in the Sarah Thorne Summer Repertory Season explores the Victorian money-making system and the ways in which money can interfere with love and romance. Directed by Michael Friend, the play has been performed for nearly 120 years.

Harry Trench is a doctor with a good background but only a small income. However, his life seems to be taking a positive turn when he falls in love with the beautiful Blanche while on holiday in Germany and they become engaged.

On their return to London, Harry is horrified to discover that Blanche's father is the landlord of slum housing. He orders Blanche to refuse her father's money once they are married, but his principles are soon put to the test when he discovers where his own meagre income is coming from.

Tickets cost £10.50 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members and £12.50 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance, call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Friday and Saturday, July 30-31, Dragon House, Smarden

DISAPPEAR down the rabbit hole and spend the evening in Wonderland with the Smarden Players.

The group presents an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic stories, Alice in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking Glass, performed outdoors in the gardens of Dragon House. With a 50ft stage, impressive set design and special effects, the Smarden Players present a magical show that will enchant audiences of all ages.

Some of the most exciting elements of the show include the 'rabbit hole' entrance which guides audiences to their seats and the mysterious, disappearing Cheshire Cat. The voice of the cat is provided by former Meridian TV reporter Jeff Moody.

Derek Colley's adaptation of the much-loved stories includes many of Wonderland's most popular residents. For this production, a slightly older Alice will guide the audience through the story and there are plenty of surprises in store.

Tickets cost £7/£5 on Friday and £7 on Saturday. To avoid disappointment, buy tickets in advance from the Post Office or the Flying Horse in Smarden or alternatively call 01233 770557.



UNDER SIEGE

Saturday, July 31, and Sunday, August 1
 Dover Castle

EXPERIENCE the drama of a castle under attack when history comes to life at Dover Castle this weekend.

In 1216, Dover defended the country against a French attack which became the scene of one of England's bloodiest battles. This critical event in English history is recreated in spectacular style, when a thrilling medieval siege is recreated at the attraction.

Feel the atmosphere and learn how the army prepared for combat with this absorbing event, which features an authentic army encampment. Throughout the day, minor skirmishes will break out as the tension builds towards the mighty battle on Palace Green. See the knights and foot soldiers engage in combat, along with the French attackers' attempts to undermine the Great Tower by digging a tunnel. The French troops will also use a terrifying trebuchet to attack the castle.

Hubert De Burgh will lead King John's defence from the Great Tower, where visitors can meet the colourful King's household and find out what life was like under siege.

To find out more visit the website at www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle.





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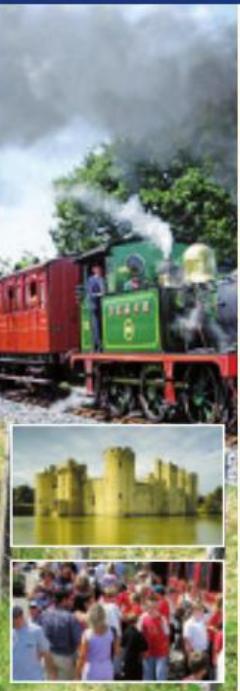
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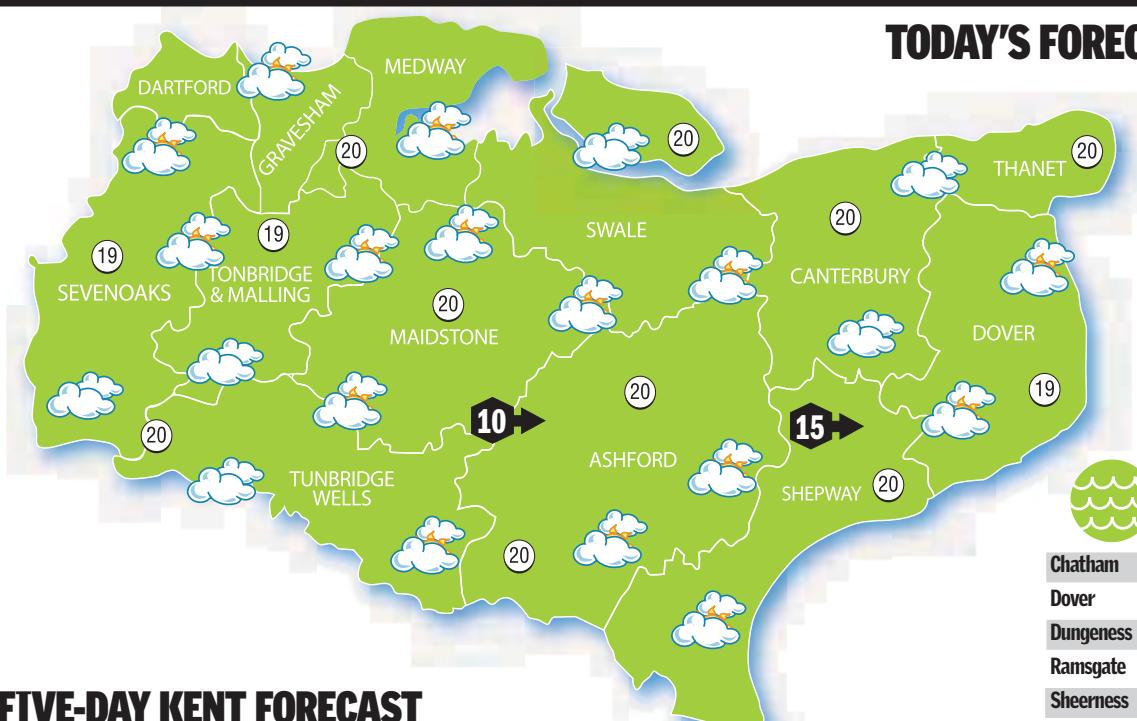
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	19°C	Madrid	30°C
Athens	30°C	New York	32°C
Barcelona	26°C	Paris	24°C
Beijing	31°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	15°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	22°C	Tokyo	32°C
Gibraltar	26°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	30°C	Warsaw	14°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	10°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Canterbury	22°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	21°C
Chatham	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Dartford	25°C	21°C	22°C	22°C	21°C
Dover	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Faversham	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Gravesend	25°C	21°C	22°C	22°C	21°C
Maidstone	23°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Folkestone	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Ramsgate	22°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	21°C
Rochester	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Sevenoaks	22°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C
Sittingbourne	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Tonbridge	22°C	21°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
Tun Wells	22°C	21°C	21°C	20°C	20°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:38pm 5.8m	Sunday	5:11pm 5.6m
Dover	Saturday	2:54pm 6.3m	Sunday	3:21pm 6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:53pm 7.3m	Sunday	3:26pm 7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:24pm 4.8m	Sunday	3:51pm 4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:28pm 5.5m	Sunday	5:00pm 5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:39pm 5.2m	Sunday	5:08pm 5.1m



SUNRISE

5.12am SUNSET 8.51pm



MOONRISE

9.23pm MOONSET 7.51am



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

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**Pontin's Pounds Holiday spending money will be given out on arrival and can be used in all bars, restaurants and fast food outlets on each Pontin's Holiday Park. Pontin's Pounds Terms and Conditions apply - see Pontin's 2010 brochure. 50 Pontin's Pounds per apartment given on 7 night Summer Holidays, 25 Pontin's Pounds per apartment given on 3 or 4 night Summer Breaks.

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After years of bit-part roles Justin proves he's not on The Rebound

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

TWELVE years ago he was playing roles that didn't even appear on the movie's closing credits. But now, Justin Bartha – aka the anonymous clubgoer in the 1998 disco film 54 – has reached leading man status with his latest movie The Rebound.

Along the way there have been hits (National Treasure, The Hangover) and misses (Gigli), but 32-year-old Bartha says he feels "extremely grateful for all the great things that have happened".

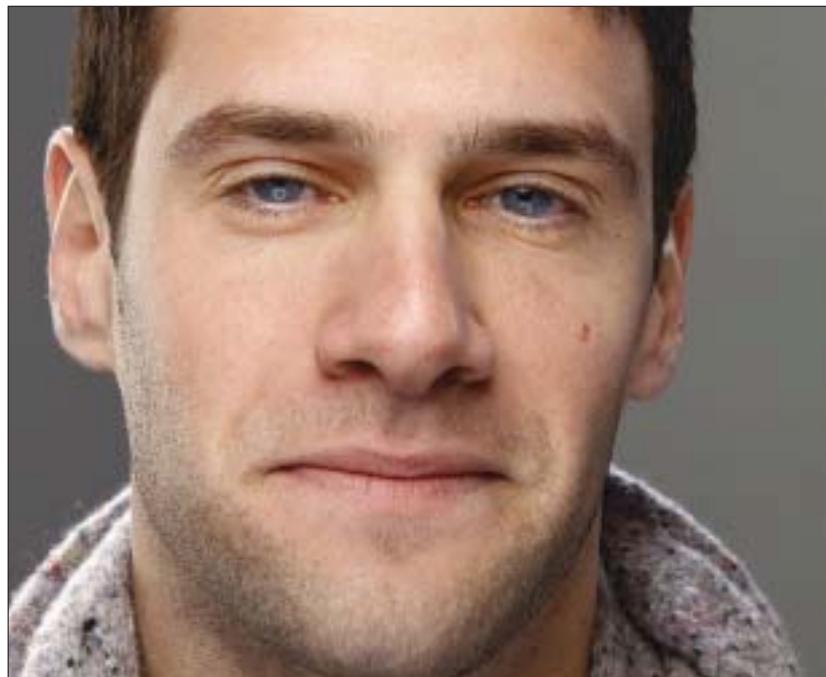
The first of his family to forge a career in acting, started out in high-school plays and doing community theatre, before training at university in New York only to find himself "bumming around trying to get a job".

That first job was behind the camera, as a production assistant on Analyze This in 1999. Later that year, he made his professional acting debut in a short film called Tag. A few quiet years followed before he joined the then couple-du-jour Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez in the universally panned Gigli in 2003. Then a year later, he finally got his big break as the comedic computer whiz Riley Poole in the National Treasure films.

In romantic comedy The Rebound Bartha plays Aram Finkelstein, a directionless 24-year-old who becomes a nanny for Sandy, the perfect suburban wife, played by Catherine Zeta Jones, who's just discovered her husband has been having an affair. The pair embark on a relationship that goes swimmingly until reality rears its ugly head.

"It's a really great romantic comedy and something everyone can enjoy," says Bartha.

"It's a New York love story where Catherine and myself have just got out of bad relationships but find it's the wrong time to explore theirs because of their ages and where they



THE SENSITIVE TYPE: Justin Bartha plays children's nanny Aram Finkelstein in the romantic comedy The Rebound

are in their life."

Written and directed by Julianne Moore's husband Bart Freundlich, Aram's optimistic and romantic stance on life makes him a refreshingly sympathetic male character.

"Aram is a nice guy and there's some role reversal in the movie," says Bartha. "You're so used to seeing men in movies being aggressive idiots who are only looking for sex. Aram is a sensitive man and that's really interesting. He's almost too sensitive."

But, despite Bartha's eagerness, it was to be a few years before he was cast.

Director Freundlich has since explained that

he needed to explore a wide range of people to be sure Bartha was the right choice – and Bartha readily admits he thought he wouldn't get the role after hearing Catherine Zeta Jones had been cast as Sandy.

As for working with our home-grown star, Bartha's nothing short of gushing. "She's fantastic. Who doesn't like her?"

It's lucky they got along, as the pair share an intimate moment on a sofa before being interrupted by Sandy's son.

"It's very awkward doing those scenes," he laughs. "In that scene I have to fall off this couch and kept scraping my chest, so by the

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end of the day I had this rash on it. It was very 'not sexy'."

Another scene that creates a big laugh happens when Aram takes Sandy on a date to see his best friend's amateur dramatic showcase, which turns out to consist of 46 theatrical scenes – with no interval.

"What's funny is that it seems like such a comedy scene but acting workshops really are like that," he says. "I've been to tons of them."

THE REBOUND
Certificate 15



WATCHING THE DETECTIVE: Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman



YOUR TV REVIEW

SHERLOCK: BBC One, 9pm, Sunday **FIFTH GEAR:** Five, 7.30pm, Thursday

WITH autumn approaching, the schedules will soon be full of new shows hoping to grab your attention for the remainder of the year.

Sherlock is the BBC's highest-profile effort.

Whether or not the decision to bring Sherlock Holmes back was based on the success of the recent film is not something I can enlighten you on, but it's an interesting point.

Curiosity in the character has no doubt been revived due to Guy Ritchie's film adaptation, but rather than set this in days past it has been dragged kicking and screaming into the present day.

Holmes is now a man who surfs the net and has Dr Watson on speed-dial.

There's a fantastic iPhone application that lets you download a whole collection of the Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle-penned Holmes books for free, so I took a look earlier this year.

Holmes is really not the straight-laced deer-stalker-wearing square he is often played as.

In fact he is a much spikier pedant than you would think, so choosing the angular Benedict Cumberbatch as the man to play the super-sleuth could turn out to be a good move.

Meanwhile, Martin Freeman steps into faithful companion Dr Watson's shoes.

Brought to you by two of the men behind the Doctor Who revival, expect this to be the next big thing, or to sink without a trace.

AS Top Gear grows ever more fanciful and has less to do with motoring

with each passing episode, the driver who is actually interested in cars would be forgiven for switching to Fifth Gear instead.

This is not the new kid on the block, and has actually been around since 2002, but adheres more to the style of old Top Gear, rather than the re-launched ego fest of Clarkson, May and Hammond.

This show actually road tests cars the average man may actually one day have a chance of driving, and touches more on the issues that concern your average motorist.

It is probably not as funny or entertaining as Top Gear, but copying the old format of its rival (old TG presenters Tiff Needell and Vicki Butler-Henderson are employed here), which looked like a dumb move in the early days, has actually turned out to be its biggest strength.

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yourmusic

Home-grown acts create a great day



ROCK ON: Coronal were one of many great acts at Create Music Festival

■ BY DOMINIC GREENWOOD

OFFERING everything from cheesy covers to crashing guitars, Create Music Festival kept thousands entertained in Ashford's Victoria Park on Sunday.

With an incredible 11,000 people through the gate, Create has become the county's leading free festival, a feat made all the more impressive by the fact that nearly every band on the line-up was home-grown.

The festival boasted extra stages this year with an acoustic tent, a dance tent and the Right Track Music stage for younger bands.

For the first time it also offered a bar, and as the threatened rain held off many enjoyed a cold beer in the sun in front of the main stage.

Many of Kent's best-known acts made an appearance, many of which have already enjoyed a busy festival season.

Luke Jackson, a singer-songwriter whose talents belie his years, and 'unhinged' folk act Los Salvadores have both already played sets at Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm, and both put in a spirited performance at Create on the acoustic and main stage respectively.

Other highlights included Ashford metal band Coronal, whose charismatic frontman succeeded in firing up the crowd throughout the band's brutal half-hour set.

Many acts peppered their sets with covers, which was appreciated by those looking for a hint of familiarity.

Five Floors Up were particularly good in this respect, and headliners Green Date, a convincing Green Day tribute band, rounded off the event with an effective trawl through the Californian three-piece's back catalogue.

Organiser Chris Dixon from Ashford council said: "Create 2010 has been phenomenal, and no doubt the best yet. It is amazing what can be achieved when local talent, audiences, event

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MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love

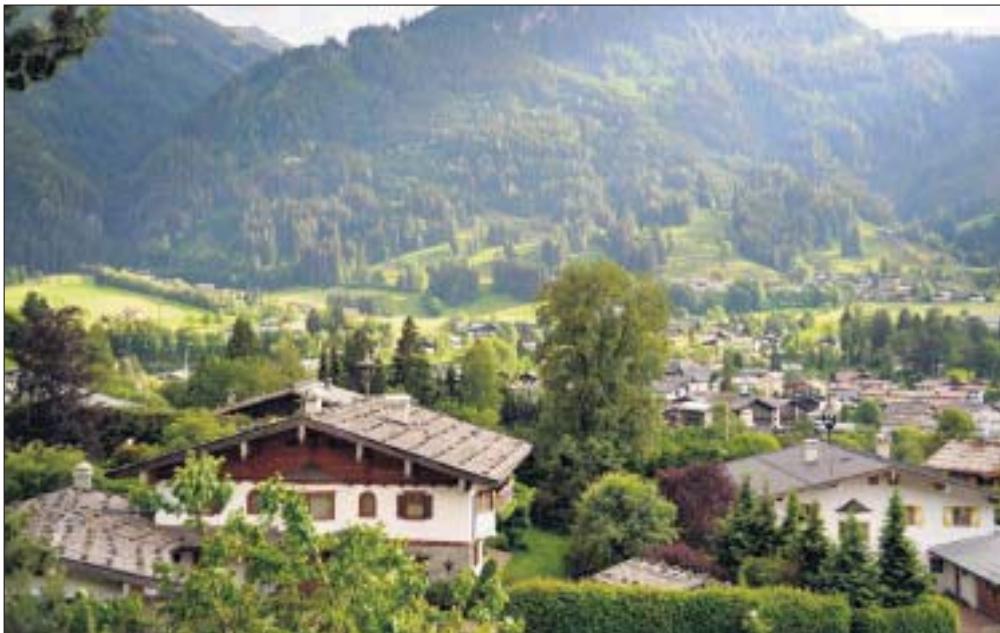


TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 Shelta - We Can Make It (from Bexley)
- 3 Ron Bowdery - The Return of Alfred E (from New Eltham)
- 4 Gristlebridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 5 Stereohype - Invaders Must Die (from Deal)

organisers, local businesses and local sponsors all work together to deliver something as positive as this for our community – Ashford can be very proud of itself this week.

"After every Create, you always feel so exhausted you can never think of running another, but after seeing so many smiling faces and families getting together today I can safely say Create will be back for July 2011."



HIGH OLD TIME: Kitzbühel in the Austrian Tyrolean has an adventurous side away from its more well-known skiing and snowboarding activities

yourgetaways



Adventurous pursuits on offer in the Austrian Tyrol

■ BY RICHARD JONES

WHILE glitzy Kitzbühel's infrastructure is perfectly prepared for the deluge of skiers and snowboarders, there is a very different feel to the area come summer.

When the hedonism and intensity of the ski season has melted away, visitors relish the gorgeous scenery and, even better, try the variety of adventurous pursuits on offer in the area.

I began my four-day break on the Saturday evening, and checked into what would be my base for the trip – the four-star Hotel Jägerwirt, run by the same family for four generations.

The first dinner for our 10-strong group was a hearty combination of lamb, potato gratin and spinach, before a nightcap at Flannigan's, the local Irish bar.

Next morning, the minibus whisked us off to the Mountain High centre in Kirchdorf – to be measured for wetsuits, life jackets and helmets for our first activity – the family rafting.

Our time in the 12ft x 6ft raft was great fun, and the highlight was jumping out of the vessel to float down through the rapids on our backs, before climbing out and jumping from a cliff face into a plunge pool.

The rafting course took us into a part of Germany for a short while, through the wildly romantic Klobenstein Canyon, until the minibus came to collect our equipment and return us back to Mountain High.

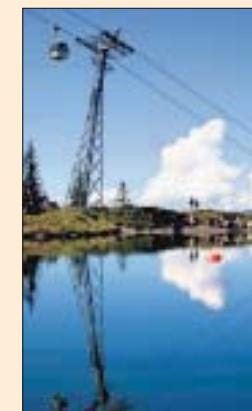
After lunch, we took the five-minute walk from the hotel to the Mountain Edge bike centre.

Our guide Rob provided helmets, gloves and bikes, before leading us

FACT FILE: AUSTRIA

Time difference	+Two hours (GMT)
Capital	Vienna
Language	German
Population	8,350,000
Currency	Euro
Climate	Temperate

Richard Jones was a guest of Crystal Lakes & Mountains, which offers seven nights' half-board at Hotel Jägerwirt in Kitzbühel from £639. Thomson Lakes has an Austrian Adventure package based on the Mountain High Adventure Centre, Kirchdorf, from £645, including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, and seven nights' half-board accommodation.



on a specially tailored ride to the lake at Schwarzsee, a haven for local holidaymakers on this particular weekend – a Tyrolean bank holiday with the sun shining.

There was an Italian buffet at the Jägerwirt on Sunday night, while Monday morning promised our third activity of the week – canyoning. This was not for the faint-hearted, and four of our group backed out when peering over the edge of the gorge.

But those of us who stuck with it were rewarded with an hour of sheer excitement involving slithering down rockslides carved into the rock, jumping into frothing plunge pools, hanging from cliff faces, and floating down through ice-cold water on our backs until we reached the rest of our party at the base.

After the adrenaline rush of the morning, it was time for a gentle

three-hour walk through farms, forests and flowery meadows and up to a waterfall on the south side of the Kitzbüheler Horn, which offered us excellent views across the town.

After a dinner of Wiener Schnitzel, a few of us embarked on a night out in Kitz, stumbling from the town's main nightspot, The Londoner bar – jam-packed to the rafters during ski season – in the early hours.

There were sore heads next day as we tried Canadian canoeing. Though the canoes were safe and stable, steering them proved difficult and we had countless collisions with the rocky banks and capsizes galore.

While we were on the river, the under-14s on our trip had a swim and splash around in a nearby lake.

The farmers' buffet at the Jägerwirt was the perfect way to round off our week in Austria.

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Total Amount Payable £8366.32 * APR 9.9%

	09/09 Ford Focus 1.8 Diesel 5dr in Sea Grey 6,966 miles			
Cash Price	Deposit	58 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£11499	£1149.90	£215.36	£49.00	£365.22

Total Amount Payable £14176 * APR 9.9%

	2005 Ford Mondeo 1.8 5dr in Blue 48,250 miles			
Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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Total Amount Payable £6032.08 * APR 9.9%

	09/09 Ford Mondeo 1.8 Diesel Estate 5dr in Sea Grey, 24,013 miles			
Cash Price	Deposit	59 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£11999	£1199.90	£221.94	£51.00	£372.06

Total Amount Payable £14836.42 * APR 9.9%

	2005 Ford C-Max 1.6 5dr in Panther Black 42,561 miles			
Cash Price	Deposit	54 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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PROPERTY NEWS

First-time buyers key to getting market moving

HOUSE prices fell last month, with Halifax's house price index showing a 0.6 per cent drop and the LSL/Acadametrics index showing prices decreasing by 0.5 per cent.

But LSL/Acadametrics reports a 7.7 per cent year-on-year rise in prices, with Halifax showing a 6.3 per cent rise.

Analysts say the average property price in England and Wales is £218,119.

Martin Ellis, housing economist at Halifax, said: "The June price fall continued the trend of a slowdown seen since the beginning of this year, following a moderate recovery in 2009. This pattern is in line with our view that prices will remain pretty much unchanged this year."

LSL/Acadametrics also reveals a 20 per cent jump in the number of properties sold to 63,500 in June – up from 52,975 in May.

David Brown, commercial director at LSL Property Services, says the key to a market recovery lies with first-time buyers. But he adds: "We can't discount further price falls in the next few months as the market continues to stabilise."

And Peter Williams, chairman of Acadametrics, says traditionally the number of houses sold in June is higher than in May.

He said: "This year sales in May were abnormally low, possibly owing to uncertainty as a consequence of the election."

Study shows seven-year low for mortgage rates

MORTGAGE rates are at their lowest for seven years, according to new research.

The study by Moneyfacts.co.uk found the average interest-rate on a two-year fixed rate mortgage is 4.52 per cent the lowest since September 2003.

Interest rates on fixed rate mortgages have been dropping since September last year, as lenders attempt to entice borrowers away from low standard variable rates (SVRs).

"Many borrowers are opting to remain on record low SVRs and overpaying their mortgage rather than secure a new deal at a higher rate," said Michelle Slade, Moneyfacts.co.uk spokesperson.

"Lenders are trying to persuade borrowers onto new fixed rate deals by making significant cuts to rates."

"Previously, only deals for borrowers with large deposits were seeing cuts, but as the market improves borrowers with smaller deposits are being offered more competitive deals too."



Landlords facing mortgage woes if interest rate rises

■ BY NICK AMES

FOUR out of ten landlords reckon they would not be able to cover the mortgage payments on their properties if interest rates increase by two per cent.

A fortnight ago the Bank of England held the base rate at 0.5 per cent for the 16th consecutive month, which is just as well as according to a poll by flat share website Spareroom.co.uk, who discovered four out of ten UK landlords are receiving rents barely covering the monthly mortgage repayments on their properties.

For 22 per cent of respondents, a rate rise of just one per cent would mean the sums don't add up, and for ten per cent of landlords questioned the situation is far worse, with a rate rise of just 0.5 per cent resulting in a rent-mortgage shortfall.

The research also revealed that six out of ten landlords have been forced to hike monthly rents since the start of the year, with one in five planning to increase rents by five per cent this year, and 18 per cent factoring in an increase of between three and five per cent.

However, more than half of these landlords said they are worried that they could lose loyal and valuable tenants as a result.

Spareroom.co.uk director Matt Hutchinson describes Britain's landlords in a catch-22 situation.

He said: "On the one hand the rise in Capital Gains Tax for higher rate taxpayers means that many landlords either won't be able to sell their buy-to-let properties full-stop or will sell at a far greater loss. At the same time, holding onto their properties means they are



BALANCING ACT: Many UK landlords would face a rent-mortgage shortfall if the interest rate rose by two per cent at the mercy of the Bank of England and facing higher mortgage payments."

aims to help landlords weigh up the different factors involved in the decision-making process.

A number of areas, from the length of the tenancy period to the occupants themselves and the difference between wear and tear and damage, are explored.

The guide also highlights the importance of communication between landlord and tenant, particularly at the outset of the tenancy, when the landlord can set expectations of the tenants and the final condition of the property.

Energy-efficient homes to miss stamp penalty



HOMEOWNERS are being advised to make their homes more energy efficient before putting them on the market if proposed stamp duty penalties come into force.

Ministers are examining introducing an increase in stamp duty for homes which fall into the lowest efficiency bands.

According to one home energy expert, buyers could be put off purchasing homes with poor energy efficiency to avoid paying an extra 0.5 per cent on top of their stamp duty bill.

Marc Blomfield, managing director of The National EPC Company, a leading provider of Energy

Performance Certificates (EPCs) said: "Millions of homes with poor insulation, draughty windows and inefficient boilers could be subject to the stamp duty penalty, potentially putting off buyers."

"Despite scrapping home information packs, the Government has signalled its intention to increase household energy efficiency by retaining the EPC as a required marketing tool."

"The stamp duty penalty would be a further incentive for homeowners to make energy saving improvements to their homes and would be a part of the proposed Green Deal initiative, which includes measures to help

homeowners pay for efficiency improvements."

The stamp duty penalty suggestion was included in a report commissioned by former Chancellor Alastair Darling and could be tied in with a package of energy saving incentives.

Marc Blomfield added: "The Government is committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and sees households as the major target. More than 40 per cent of the UK's CO₂ emissions result from choices people make as individuals, with the majority coming from the home."

For more information on EPCs go to www.nepco.co.uk.

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"Sunspot" is a detached three bedroom bungalow situated on the Dungeness estate with picturesque views and is in close proximity to the Dungeness Power Station.

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**Folkestone £142,500**

Two bedroom semi detached house. Lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom, garage, off road parking, double glazing, central heating. Ideal first time buy.

Folkestone Office

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**Lyminge £194,995**

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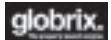
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**Eythorne £290,000**

Geering and Colyer are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom double fronted home in popular location. The accommodation comprises hallway, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen.

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Bairstow Eves are delighted to present to the market this very well presented three bedroom semi detached chalet bungalow.

The property is set in the popular village of Eythorne in a cul de sac location and is close by to the village shop and public house as well as primary schools and the A256 leading to Sandwich and Dover.

The bungalow comprises of three bedrooms, two of which are on ground level (one with built-in wardrobes), a family shower room, spacious lounge plus kitchen/diner leading through to a conservatory to the rear overlooking the lawned rear garden.

The first floor consists of the master bedroom with en suite shower room and good sized storage cupboards/wardrobes.

The property benefits from full double glazing and central heating system, a raised patio area to the rear garden with rear access to the double-breasted garage with electric door as well as off street parking for four to five cars.

This property really does offer a lot and is very highly recommended to view.

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FOLKESTONE



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£120,000

This deceptively spacious first floor split level apartment with private entrance is a credit to its current owners and should be placed at the top of your viewing list. The accommodation comprises living room with bay window and feature fireplace, modern well fitted kitchen

DOVER



£295,000

Bairstow Eves are delighted to present to the market this fabulous five bedroom terrace house including many original features such as period fire places in each

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room and high ceilings throughout. The property is set in the highly sought after of Castle Avenue, with easy access to the town centre.

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DOVER



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Four bedroom mid terrace house. Recently re decorated and modernised throughout. Chain free.

DOVER



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FOLKESTONE



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Terrace home with two double bedrooms, a through lounge diner, a separate kitchen off the dining area and a modern upstairs bathroom.

Folkestone 01303 259211



FOLKESTONE



ASKING PRICE £84,95

Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bedroom and bathroom/wc.

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This two bedroom flat in popular location is offered for sale with no chain by order of mortgagees in possession.

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1 bedroom unfurnished 2nd floor self contained flat ideally situated for town centre and local amenities. This spacious well presented property comprises of entrance hallway, large lounge, double bedroom, modern fitted kitchen to include gas hob and oven, large bathroom, security entry.

Dover £750 Per Month/Deposit £750



3 bedroom 2nd floor furnished apartment in town centre location ideally situated for ferry terminal and local amenities. This tidy property comprises of entrance hallway with security entry phone system, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single, fitted kitchen to include cooker and washing machine.

Dover £413.65 Per Month/Deposit £413.65



Spacious one bedroom 3rd floor flat in town centre location. This apartment forms part of the recent Metropole conversion and comprises of entrance hallway, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with electric shower, double bedroom, storage heating and security entrance phone.

Dover £335 Per Month/Deposit £335



Comfortable studio flat with lift access, kitchen and bathroom, full gas central heating, good decorative order and carpets. Situated in the town centre, convenient for shops, supermarkets and ferries. MUST BE OVER 24 YEARS OLD. HOUSING BENEFIT ACCEPTED WITH GUARANTOR.

Folkestone £450 Per Month/Deposit £450



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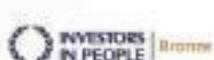
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CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent League Division One

Whitstable 1st XI v Sandwich Town 1st XI

THE Division One title race took a twist at the Belmont on Saturday as Sandwich Town boosted their promotion hopes with a seven-wicket win against rivals Whitstable.

The result saw Town move up into second place just six points behind leaders Sibton Park, while simultaneously damaging their opponents' chances.

Sandwich skipper Matthew van Poppel's decision to bowl after winning the toss immediately paid dividends as openers Max Campbell and Seth Simmons fell to Craig Spanton cheaply.

Whitstable patiently batted their way back into the game. Sam Denly (74) and James Loader (65) shared a stand of 106 for the fourth wicket, although neither could score quickly enough to set up a big total. A flurry of wickets fell late on in an effort to accelerate the innings, but they could only reach 199 for 7 from their 50 overs.

Sandwich have become adept at chasing totals this season and they again impressed. They did not have it all their own way as Whitstable made a good start, with Campbell taking two early wickets.

The visitors then took over. Craig Snell (51) and Vishaul Singh (74 not out) batted well to ease Sandwich into a position of control until the former was caught by David Draper.

The wicket proved to be a mixed blessing for Whitstable, as Snell was replaced by Oliver Robinson. The number five was in a destructive mood and proceeded to smash 54 off just 28 deliveries to bring up the victory after just 31 overs.

Sandwich are at home to fourth-placed Beckenham on Saturday.

Sandwich put a dent in Whitstable's title hopes



COMFORTABLE: A superb display from Sandwich Town's batsmen saw them romp to victory against Whitstable

SCORE CARD**Whitstable 1st XI**

	Runs
Max Campbell lbw b Spanton	1
Seth Simmons b Spanton	2
Sam Denly ct van Poppel b Spanton	74
David Draper st Lawrence b Amos	17
James Loader run out	65
Amadou Ainscough b Amos	2
James Mills st Lawrence b van Poppel	15
Michael Seager not out	1
Jack Crouch did not bat	
Josh Gould did not bat	
Duncan Hardy did not bat	
Extras (8b 5lb 9w)	22
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	199

Picture: GUY KOPPEN

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	13	0	56	3
Tom Chapman	7	3	21	0
Matthew van Poppel	15	1	61	1
Alan Amos	15	2	48	2

Sandwich Town 1st XI

	Runs
Craig Snell ct Draper b Crouch	51
David Scoggin ct Draper b Campbell	13
Robert Goatham ct Denly b Campbell	4
Vishaul Singh not out	74
Oliver Robinson not out	54

	Runs
Matthew van Poppel did not bat	
Alan Amos did not bat	
Craig Spanton did not bat	
Gavin Lawrence did not bat	
Stuart Smith did not bat	
Tom Chapman did not bat	

	Runs
Extras (2lb 2w)	4
Total (3 wickets, 31 overs)	200

	Bowlers
James Mills	6.2 0 47 0
Max Campbell	8 0 53 2
Duncan Hardy	5 0 25 0
Josh Gould	7 0 42 0
Jack Crouch	4 0 31 1

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP**KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE**

Folkestone 1st XI v Harvel 1st XI

DESPITE Himanshu Waingarkar hitting a century, Folkestone missed out as they could only claim a winning draw against basement strugglers Harvel.

Need a victory to enhance their fading chances of promotion, the hosts lost both openers before they could make an impact. Waingarkar found form to hit his first of the season and his 110 not out was crucial as Folkestone closed on 232 for 6.

Harvel had only won once in the league this season and were staring at another defeat as they slipped to 90 for 6, but Folkestone's bowlers could not finish the job.

Folkestone 1st XI

	Runs
David Miles	ct M Britz b Marable
David Clark	ct McSweeney b Rumbelow
Himanshu Waingarkar	not out
All Bray	run out
Stuart Graham	ct Saunders b J Britz
Jamie Daves	b Marable
Nathan Ingleston	ct M Britz b Marable
Andy Bray	ct Dav Walker b Bailey
Thomas Cullen	run out
Michael James	did not bat
John Champion	did not bat
Extras	(6b 1lb 6w 4nb)
Total	(6 wickets, 50 overs) 232

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Desmond Bailey	15	3	52	1
James Marable	12	2	36	3
Grant Rumbelow	7	0	39	1
Daniel Walker	5	0	37	0
John-Jacob Britz	7	0	40	1
David Walker	4	0	21	0

Harvel 1st XI

	Runs
David Walker	ct Dawes b James
Daniel Walker	b Bray
Jesse Seven	lbw b Champion
Dominic Saunders	b Cullen
Robert McSweeney	ct Champion b Cullen
Matt Britz	ct Graham b Champion
Grant Rumbelow	not out
Desmond Bailey	ct Jamie b Cullen
John-Jacob Britz	not out
James Marable	did not bat
Extras	(4lb 2w 6nb)
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs) 153

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Michael James	9	1	40	1
Andy Bray	4	0	12	1
Himanshu Waingarkar	9	4	29	0
John Champion	15	5	35	3
Thomas Cullen	13	2	33	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE**2nd XI**

Sibton Park 2nd XI v Hartley 2nd XI

A POOR display with the bat saw Sibton Park 2nds lose to Hartley 2nds by 49 runs to slip out of the promotion places.

Few would have expected such a result after Hartley's innings as they were bowled out for 208 in the final over. David Stewart was the pick of the bowlers, taking 4 for 44, while impressive fielding also accounted for three run-outs.

Park's reply began badly, with Daniel Lodge dismissed for just a single, while Joe Fowler and Andrew Arter followed for ducks. Ryan Currie (31) and Stewart Murrell (47) briefly revived the hosts' hopes, but they were all out well short.

Hartley Country Club 2nd XI

	Runs
Lewis Hickford	run out
David Thompson	ct Carberry b Murrell
Tom Carter	run out
Jack Redden	run out
Jake Hutson	ct Fowler b Currie
Justin Crouch	ct Osborne b Stewart
Andrew Tutt	b Stewart
John Mitchell	b Stewart
Stuart Underwood	ct Winter-Taylor b Stewart
Neil Pooley	ct Fowler b Murrell
Rhys Morgan	not out
Extras	(8b 4lb 2w 1nb)
Total	(all out, 49.4 overs) 208

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Trevor Lewis	7	1	25	0
Stewart Murrell	10	2	31	2
Daniel Lodge	1	0	10	0
Ryan Currie	15	1	66	1
Martin Wren	3	0	20	0
David Stewart	134	3	44	4

Sibton Park 2nd XI

	Runs
John Osborne	ct Hutson b Morgan
Daniel Lodge	ct Mitchell b Mitchell
Ben Carberry	run out
Joe Fowler	b Morgan
Andrew Arter	lbw b Morgan
Ryan Currie	ct Hutson b Mitchell
Martin Wren	lbw b Morgan
Stewart Murrell	ct Hutson b Morgan
David Stewart	ct Underwood b Thompson
Harry Winter-Taylor	not out
Trevor Lewis	lbw b Morgan
Extras	(4b 7lb 4w)
Total	(all out, 42 overs) 159

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
John Mitchell	9	0	39	2
Stuart Underwood	5	2	11	0
Rhys Morgan	12	5	50	6
David Thompson	15	0	40	1
Neil Pooley	1	0	8	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE**Beckenham 1st XI v Hythe 1st XI**

AN OBDURATE batting display from Hythe's tail-enders avoided defeat, despite being outplayed by Beckenham who could only finish with a winning draw.

Daniel Patching took two wickets early on, but an unbeaten century from Johan Malcolm spearheaded a strong batting display as the hosts posted 246 for 6.

Victory would have taken Hythe clear of the relegation zone and they made a good start. Lochan Blunden (50) and Leon Morgan (41) gave them hope of an away win, but wickets fell too regularly and only a spirited effort from Patching and Jago Pearson saw them avoid defeat.

Beckenham 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Isles	ct Furnival b Blunden
Jason Billimoria	lbw b Patching
Raza Ali Dar	ct Butler b Patching
Johan Malcolm	not out
James Evans	c&b Blunden
Simon Evans	c&b Patching
Ross Piller	ct Blunden b Maurice
Duncan Spencer	not out
Ankit Patel	ct Furnival b Maurice
Aditya Forde	not out
Extras	(4b 8lb 7w 3nb)
Total	(all out, 50 overs) 246

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Daniel Patching	13	5	35	3
Jago Pearson	7	1	33	0
Lochan Blunden	15	2	50	2
Leon Morgan	6	0	39	0
Tim Pichowski	b Ali Dar			
Dan Furnival	ct Evans b Ali Dar			
Sam Patching	not out			
Sam Butler	ct Spencer b Malcolm			
Andrew Maurice	b Ali Dar			
Jamie Hemphrey	ct Malcolm b Ali Dar			
Jago Pearson	not out			
Extras	(2b 10w 5nb)			
Total	(9 wickets, 50 overs) 192			

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W

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Hayes looks to widen his options for new season

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

STRENGTHENING down the flanks remains the top priority for Dover boss Martin Hayes as he continues to shape his side for the new season.

The Whites boss completed his first new signings last week with the capture of striker Ben Hunt, midfielder Sam Cutler and defender Dean Hill, but Hayes' next task is to increase the side's attacking threat on the wings.

As it stands Dover have only one out-and-out winger on contract in James Rogers.

Hayes has been keen to add to his wide options ever since he joined the club and is speaking to a number of players.

Former Bromley midfielder Luke I'Anson has featured on the wing in three of the four pre-season friendlies and is someone the Dover boss is contemplating offering a deal to.

Hayes said: "The players we are talking to are dragging their heels at the moment and we're still awaiting answers from them."

"We do need to strengthen the flanks because we are a bit fragile in that department. I hope we will have at least one of them at the club before Saturday's game at Carshalton."

"Luke is someone I would like to be able to do something with, but he is not an out-and-



ON TARGET: Adam Birchall (far right) was on the scoresheet again in Dover's latest pre-season victory at Dulwich

out winger. I see him featuring more in the centre of midfield if we can do a deal with him. At the moment he has been doing the bulk of the work out wide, but until we can sign a couple of wingers he will stay there for the minute."

The Whites picked up their third pre-season win on Saturday with a 2-0 victory at Ryman South side Dulwich Hamlet. The visitors went on the attack from the outset and were unlucky not to open the scoring through Dean Hill. The defender met Rogers' corner, but his header cannoned off the cross bar.

Dover eventually took the lead early in the second-half through trialist Jackson Ohakam.

A Jon Wallis corner was flicked on by Matt Fish before being stabbed home by Ohakam.

Hayes' side dominated the second-half and Birchall continued to threaten as his shot hit the base of the post. However, the former Arsenal striker finished the game on the scoresheet when he fired a curling effort into the net for Dover's second.

Hayes said: "We got the win which is good, but it wasn't our best performance.

"Adam Birchall looked lively once again and continues to keep scoring, but we have slipped back in other areas. It's good in a way because it gives us something to work on before the season gets properly underway."



RETURNING: Jimmy Dryden is easing his way back to fitness

Cugley's excited by his striking options

FOOTBALL

THE return to fitness of striker Paul Jones has got Folkestone Invicta manager Neil Cugley excited about his squad's attacking potential ahead of the new season.

Scoring goals was the Seasiders' Achilles heel last season, but indications are more encouraging this time around.

Jones netted as Invicta began their pre-season games with a 2-1 win at Faversham Town last week, which also saw Jimmy Dryden play 30 minutes. The former Ashford striker has signed on for next season and Cugley believes after struggling with injuries, the forward is in good shape to make an impact in the Ryman Premier.

He said: "Paul looked outstanding at Faversham, it's the fittest I've seen him in pre-season. He's strong, holds the ball up well and has impressed.

"We're not going to rush Jimmy, but he came through it well and Simon Austin looks good, so suddenly it's looking a bit better."

Scoreline

James Everitt (back) is the only injury concern ahead of Saturday's trip to Lordswood.

Elsewhere, Hythe Town maintained their 100 per cent record in

pre-season with a 2-1 win away to County League outfit Hollands & Blair. Kieran Byrne and Craig Thompson were on target to follow up victories by the same scoreline against Whitstable Town and Lydd Town.

Maidstone United visited Reachfields last night, while Hythe host Chatham Town this weekend.

Deal Town recorded an impressive result as they beat Blue Square Bet South side Basingstoke Town 2-0, thanks to goals from Sean Armstrong and Mo Takaloo.

Derek Hares' side played Whitstable last night and host Billericay Town on Saturday.

GOLF



AN OPENING SHOT: Deal golfer Karen Stupples

Stupples opens new clubhouse extension

KAREN Stupples officially opened the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club Artisans' section new clubhouse extension.

The former British Women's Open champion, who is a vice-president of the Artisans' club, performed the ceremony after flying in from her Florida home ahead of competing in this year's Open, which starts at Royal Birkdale tomorrow.

The Artisans' section of Royal Cinque Ports in Deal was formed in 1935, after cadets from RCPGC challenged their counterparts from neighbouring Royal St George's to a match.

Stupples said: "It is an honour and a privilege for me to be asked to officially open this fantastic new clubhouse, especially as the Artisans club are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year."

The extension includes a new bar area, new changing and toilet facilities and a refurbished kitchen.

Stupples warmed up for the Open by finishing tied for 43rd place at the Evian Masters in France, which finished on Sunday.

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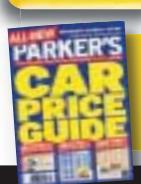


Boss Andy Hessenthaler reflects on Gills pre-season win at Ebbsfleet

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